

Council mulls mayor vote

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■ New draft of measure asking Kilpatrick to resign being prepared.

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The Detroit News

DETROIT — Some City Council members reiterated on Thursday their desire to have a vote calling for the mayor to resign — essentially a vote of no confidence.

Councilman Kwame Kenyatta, who proposed the initial resolution, said he spent the early part of this week visiting with the city's lobbyist in Washington, D.C., and saw first-hand the far-reaching impact of the scandal.

"I was at the airport and right there with the sex scandal in New York was

the sex scandal in

DETROIT with

the n-word,"

Kenyatta

said during

a meeting of

council's In-

ternal Operations Standing Committee. "Each day this is affecting the integrity of the city."

Councilwoman Brenda Jones said she was getting a new draft ready for Tuesday's meeting.

"We have to move forward on this," she said.

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business leaders

for mayor to resign

likely to stiffen his

resolve. 1C

The council decided to delay their vote last week not only to give Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy more time to investigate the mayor's case but so they were more cohesive in their voice.

The mayor was only briefly at City Hall on Thursday.

"He's been in and out," his press secretary Denise Tolliver said. "He's out meeting with his cabinet now."

Earlier in the day, he addressed a select group of business people at an invitation-only event at the Detroit Athletic Club organized by the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Kilpatrick did not speak to the media after leaving, but several attendees said the recent \$8.4 million whistle-blower settlement scandal wasn't a topic.

"It was very cordial, very low-key," said Robin Cole, an office manager for Professional Medical Centers, who said she attended the question-and-answer event.

Cole said Kilpatrick talked primarily about the policy initiatives in his State of the City speech, including opening a marriage-themed school on Belle Isle. No one asked questions about the scandal, she said. She did

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note that there were a number of empty tables. About 50 to 75 people were in attendance, Cole said.

"It was focused on the economy and what's next for the city,"

said Geneva Williams, president and chief executive of City Connect Detroit, who also attended.

Kilpatrick addressed the business gathering a day after state Attorney General Mike Cox blast-

ed the mayor for using a racial slur during his State of the City speech Tuesday. Cox said Kilpatrick should resign.

A spokeswoman for Kilpatrick has said he used the word during the live television broadcast to show how hurtful it can be.

Liz Boyd, spokeswoman for Gov. Jennifer Granholm, said the governor "condemns the use of the N-word."

"The use of the N-word has no place in public or private discourse," Boyd said Thursday.

Meanwhile attorneys for the city, The Detroit News and the Free Press are scheduled for an 8:30 a.m. hearing today regarding the on-going Freedom of Information Act lawsuit that's attempting to pry open more records related to the settlement of the whistleblowers case.

Kilpatrick's chief financial officer, Norm White, is also expected to address the City Council's budget committee today about the 2005-06 year-end audit that the city submitted in late February, close to 14 months late.